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the men and the issues of the time are those of an old-school constitutional lawyer rather than those of an historian of any school.

WM. A. DUNNING.

The *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1894*, just issued (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1895, pp. 602), shows a distinct advance upon its predecessors. Volumes made up of such brief papers as can be read orally in twenty minutes at the meetings of the Association, are of but limited utility to the profession or to the world. The Council are wise in departing more and more from this form of publication, and publishing the results of researches at sufficient length to show their value. Instead of a juiceless abstract, forced to wear the guise of unsupported assertion, the writer is "given leave to print" what will afford support to his conclusions and genuine instruction to his readers. Five highly important monographs of this sort mark the present volume. Professor John S. Bassett deals with the Regulators of North Carolina, subjecting their history to a fresh examination in the light of the new matter brought forward in the *Colonial Records* of that state. If any one, by the way, cherishes a doubt as to the fruitfulness of large expenditure in documentary publication, let him observe the remarkable growth of excellent historical literature which has, in North Carolina, followed immediately upon the publication of that great series. The other four monographs, to which especial attention should be directed, are those of Professor Henry E. Bourne, on the Organization of the First Committee of Public Safety; by Mr. Harold D. Hazeltine, on Appeals from Colonial Courts to the King in Council, with special reference to Rhode Island; by Professor Samuel B. Harding, on Party Struggles over the Pennsylvania Constitution (1776-1790); and by Professor A. C. McLaughlin, on The Western Posts and the British Debts. Each of these is an important contribution to our knowledge, and is adequately fortified with documentary and other references. Among the other contents of the volume, especial interest attaches to the thoughtful, though far from cheerful, forecast of the development of the science of history, by the president of the Association, Mr. Henry Adams; to Mrs. Harby's paper on the Tejas; to that of Dr. W. B. Scaife on the Jury System on the Continent; to that of Mr. Andrew H. Allen, *pro domo sua*, on the Historical Archives of the Department of State; and to that of Professor Bernard Moses on the Casa de Contratacion at Seville. Mr. W. E. Curtis prints translations of the twenty-nine holograph letters and documents of Columbus, and Mr. E. L. Whitney a bibliography of the colonial history of South Carolina, which, though extensive and careful, appears not to contain Mr. Sainsbury's *Calendar of the Shaftesbury Papers*, nor Sophia Hume's *Epistle and Exhortation*.

The Government Printing Office is far from infallible in proof-reading: e.g. Granada for Grenada, on page 275; Wedderbourne, on page 277; F. L. Hawkes, on page 141; Earl of Bellmont, on page 323; Mrs. Madona

Catalina (in a letter of Columbus), on page 461. The president's letter is dated from "Guada'-c-jara," presumably instead of Guadalajara.

Dahn's *Könige der Germanen* is coming on somewhat rapidly now after the long break which followed the appearance of the sixth volume. The third part of Volume VII. was published towards the end of last year. The three parts of the volume are quite equal in size to three average volumes of the preceding six, and together they make over 1300 pages, all dealing with the institutions of the Merovingian period. The work exhibits the characteristics familiar to all students of the period in the earlier volumes,— very thorough study, a very technical treatment, and a very strong inclination to hold to the traditional German views on all disputed points. The third part deals with the judicial and financial systems, with the institutions of the church in the Frankish kingdom, and with the royal power, its extent and its limitations, the last topic occupying nearly one-half the space of this *Abtheilung*. Subordinate subjects of especial interest are taxation, the immunities, the assemblies, and the Roman influence on the development of the royal power. On this last point, the author will not admit the degree of Roman influence for which Von Sybel argues, though he does not go so far as Waitz in denying practically all influence. (*Die Könige der Germanen*, Bd. VII., 3d Abth., Leipzig, Breitkopf und Härtel, 1895, p. 581.)

It will be superfluous to praise Henry Gee and W. J. Hardy's *Documents Illustrative of English Church History* (London and New York, Macmillan, 1896, pp. 670) to the reader who takes up the book and finds upon the prefatory page the declaration of the Bishop of Oxford, that "the plan on which it is conceived, the selection of documents which it contains, and the way in which they are arranged and edited are alike very good." To those who have not seen it, it is a pleasure to us to make known the existence of so excellent a book. One hundred and twenty-four of the most important documents of English ecclesiastical history, from the British signatures to the Canons of Arles down to the Act of Settlement in 1700, are presented. Thus, to take one of the last reigns as an example, under Charles II. we have the Declaration of Breda, the Order for the Savoy Conference, the Corporation Act, the Uniformity Act, the Five-mile Act, the second Conventicle Act, and the Test Act. To each document a brief paragraph is prefixed, stating the relations of the document to the church history of the time, the source whence the text is derived, and the authority of that source if there could be any doubt about it. All this is done with learning, accuracy, restraint, and good sense. The documents are usually taken from originals, save in the case of such as are printed in Haddan and Stubbs, the Rolls Series, or the Statutes of the Realm. Documents originally written in Latin or Norman-French are here presented in translation. If we were to find any fault, it would be in the matter of proportion. Four-fifths of the book relate to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The student of the mediæval church-history of England, who may buy the book expecting it to be as useful for his period as for others, is likely to be disappointed. Only a dozen documents are given for the period before the Norman Conquest, and only forty-five for the whole mediæval period. But these are the most important, selected with excellent judgment, and well edited.

Mr. George Haven Putnam's *Books and their Makers during the Middle Ages: a Study of the Conditions of the Production and Distribution of Literature from the Fall of the Roman Empire to the Close of the Seventeenth Century*, is intended, as the sub-title shows, to cover a larger period than simply that of the Middle Ages. The first volume, now published (New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1896, pp. xxxviii, 459), covers the years from 476 to 1600; the second will extend to 1709. The first part of the present volume is devoted to the making of books in monasteries, to libraries of the manuscript period, to the making of books in the early universities, and to the book trade in the period before the invention of printing. The second part discusses the Renaissance as the background to the early history of printing, the history of that invention itself, and the work of the earlier printers and publishers of Holland, Germany, and Italy.

The Syndicate of the Cambridge University Press has done well to print the most valuable portions of certain previously unnoticed records of the Peasant Revolt which Mr. Edgar Powell has recently discovered (*The Rising in East Anglia in 1381, with an Appendix containing the Suffolk Poll-Tax Lists for that Year*. Cambridge, University Press; New York, Macmillan, 1896, pp. 164). These consist not only, as the title-page might suggest, of poll-tax lists, but also of transcripts of a number of indictments of rioters, and a long excerpt from a contemporary account of the attack on the Abbey of Bury by its almoner, John Gosford. With the aid of the indictments Mr. Powell has drawn up a detailed account, not always indeed very elegantly expressed, of the external facts of the rising in Suffolk, Norfolk, and Cambridgeshire; and in this narrative of his, certain features of the movement stand out with a new clearness, especially the eagerness of the rebels to burn court rolls. Walsingham had informed us of this circumstance in general terms; his statement is now confirmed by scores of instances. Inasmuch as the indictments are usually for murder or theft, they tell us little of the motives which led to the rising; and it cannot be said that Mr. Powell's remarks do much to remove the inconsistencies and vaguenesses which characterize most modern accounts. He thinks it had something to do with the Statutes of Laborers, and he thinks, at the same time, that it was connected with villein services: the relation, if any, between these two explanations, he does not seek to determine. Yet the student of the period will be grateful for the new material Mr. Powell puts in his hands; and not least for an account which appears in

his text (p. 64), though the original record is, unfortunately, not printed, which shows that the demand for commutation of services at the rate of fourpence an acre was persisted in, in one Suffolk village, for three years after the rising had been suppressed. Mr. Powell's conclusion that "the rising was the matured result of a comprehensive plan, carried out by means of a more or less perfect organization, extending throughout the Eastern Counties" (p. 57), which he bases on a statement in an indictment to the effect that a certain person had given himself out as "nuntius magnæ societatis" (translated by Mr. Powell "messenger of a great society"), becomes doubtful when this passage is compared with others in which the same phrase occurs; especially, pages 134, 137. Probably the words "magna societas" mean no more than a large body of men bent on a common purpose, and refer to the insurgents already congregated.

W. J. A.

The Universities of Aberdeen: A History, by Robert Sangster Rait, M.A. (Aberdeen, J. G. Bisset, 1895, pp. xii, 382), is a careful, interesting, and well-proportioned narrative of the parallel history of King's and Marischal Colleges, known since 1860 as the University of Aberdeen. The interest of the volume is not limited to graduates of the northern university. While its story of the rivalries and jealousies of the two Aberdeen institutions must especially appeal to them, this is only a part of the larger history of the slow development of the Scottish university system itself, by the labors of successive parliamentary commissions, to its present form; while this, again, is an integral and important factor of the general intellectual and religious history of the country.

The unsatisfactory point about *The Journal of a Spy in Paris during the Reign of Terror, January–July, 1794*, by Raoul Hesdin (New York, Harper and Brothers, 1896, pp. xxiii, 204), is that no evidence is given of its authenticity. It is nowhere stated in the preface that the original manuscript is preserved in any public or private collection, and the editor gives neither name nor initials upon the title-page or anywhere else. Of course this omission of necessary information may be merely an oversight, for the unknown editor describes the manuscript he has published, though without stating when or how it came into his hands; but historical students at the present time cannot be too careful in insisting that evidence of authenticity shall always be given before they take into serious consideration any new historical document. Apart from this blemish—a most important one, it must be admitted—the editor has done his work well and shows in his notes a very considerable knowledge of the latest literature upon the French Revolution. The period covered by the diary is the last six months of the Reign of Terror; but it concludes, possibly from the loss of the last leaves, before coming to the Revolution of the 9th Thermidor, when Robespierre was overthrown and the Terror came to an end. It cannot be said that the *Journal* throws any new light on the history of Paris

during the Reign of Terror, a fact which further throws doubt upon the authenticity of the *Journal* in the absence of information as to the whereabouts of the original ; but the side-lights thrown on social life during the time of great dramatic interest make it worthy of perusal by all who study the history of the French Revolution.

H. M. S.

A charming volume of gossip is *La Vie à Paris pendant une Année de la Révolution (1791-1792)*, by Gustave Isambert (Paris, Félix Alcan, 1896, pp. viii, 324). The author is a scholarly journalist, well versed in all the literature of the French Revolution, who undertook during the year 1891 to write a series of articles for the *Temps*, of Paris, describing the manner of life of Parisians in 1791, in connection with the political events of that most important year in the history of the French Revolution. The idea of celebrating a centenary in this fashion was excellent and the newspapers of Paris have ever since 1889 filled up their spare columns with sketches recording the various striking events and picturesque doings of the period of the French Revolution. Most of these articles are rapidly written and have no permanent value. But M. Isambert is something more than a journalist ; he is a scholar as well, and it would have been a great pity if his learned and spirited articles had gone the way of ordinary newspaper articles. M. Isambert has not attempted to write a history of the year which elapsed from 20 June, 1791, when the king and queen and the royal children left Paris in their ill-starred attempt to escape from France which was stopped at Varennes, to 20 June, 1792, on which day the mob of Paris invaded the Tuilleries and made evident to all France that the power of the Bourbon monarchy had departed ; his chapters treat of such matters as costume, the theatre, the life of the cafés, popular songs and caricatures, and the characteristics of social life during that most interesting twelve-month rather than of the causes and sequence of political events. Charmingly written, giving evidence on every page of wide reading and historical sense, carefully supplied with footnotes and references, M. Isambert's volume may be cordially recommended not only to historical students of the French Revolution, but to all classes of general readers who take an interest in the social life of a century ago.

H. M. S.

The Development of Parliament during the Nineteenth Century, by G. Lowes Dickenson, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge (London and New York, Longmans, Green and Co., 1895, pp. viii, 183), is a concise presentation of the great revolution in government which England has undergone in the present century. The book is written from a conservative point of view. A hundred years ago power lay with a small aristocracy. To-day it is in the hands of a vast democracy. "The power has been transferred from the control of a compact and vigorous aristocracy to that of a democracy which in fact, though not in outward form, is more complete and more uncontrolled than any at present existing in any first-class state." The author traces the changes from the reform

bill of 1832 to the acts of 1884 and 1885, showing that the parliament man has ceased to be a representative and has become a mere delegate, and that thus debates are ceasing to be more than a form, parliamentary votes being predetermined by a political programme — what we should call a “platform.” One chapter is devoted to the House of Lords as the exponent of historic privilege, and another to the socialistic tendency of democracy. In conclusion, there is a discussion of what the democrats want to do with the government when they get final control, and of the dangers implied in a socialistic democracy.

Mr. Dickenson's plea is more than plausible in some respects. The fact is that the tendency in England has been towards a democratic unicameral parliament — and that with cabinet government means simply the autocracy of the temporary majority among the masses. We in America with all our democracy have shunned such a democratic despotism by a most elaborate system of checks and balances. So far as form of government goes, it is only the existence of the House of Lords which now keeps England from the system of the French Convention of 1793. The American republic has a less democratic constitution than the British monarchy.

It is a curious fact that the law lectures of James Wilson have so long lain neglected in the original and scarce edition of 1804 ; they have been unused by students of law, little referred to by students of politics, and unknown to the ordinary reader of American history. Yet they contain an intensely interesting commentary on the Constitution, written by a man who was himself one of the greatest and ablest men of the Philadelphia convention. They are quite comparable to Blackstone's lectures in profundity and learning ; and they give an illuminating example of how the founders of our government looked upon the fundamental principles of the state.

A new edition of Wilson's *Works* has just issued from the press, edited by Mr. James De Witt Andrews (*The Works of James Wilson*, Chicago, Callaghan and Co., 1896, two volumes, pp. xlvi, 577, 623). It is unfortunate that the volumes do not reproduce all of the contents of the first edition, inasmuch as the title has been taken. The law lectures are, however, given in full and have been separately annotated. The editor has cherished the hope that the volumes would be used by law students as the basis of their studies ; but there seems little ground for such expectation. The lectures are so crammed with erudite and obsolete learning, that they are oftentimes a weariness to the reader who seeks Wilson's idea of law and not his comments on the customs of the Medes or the Egyptians. The editor has been wise in not intruding his own ideas in the shape of useless notes. The lectures speak for themselves. To the first volume a long argumentative note is appended, which shows how completely the editor has come under the spell of the author. Mr. Andrews argues with great earnestness that not the male voters, but the whole people — men, women,

and babes — are the possessors of political sovereignty in America. Otherwise, what would become of Wilson's oft-repeated assertion that laws obtain their validity only from the consent of the governed? On the whole, the editing has been sensibly done, and students of history and law may be grateful that these profoundly interesting lectures are thus again made widely accessible.

A. C. McL.

Mr. S. M. Hamilton, to whom every student of history who pursues researches in the manuscript collections of the Department of State at Washington is constantly indebted, proposes to issue an extensive series of facsimiles of manuscripts from the national archives. They will be published by the Public Opinion Co., Astor Place, New York City, as *The Hamilton Facsimiles*. Such a series of documents, showing perfectly the handwriting, erasures, interlineations, and signatures of state papers of historical importance, will surely be appreciated by scholars. The expense would ordinarily occur to the mind as an objection to the extensive use of collections so prepared; but Mr. Hamilton promises all possible cheapness. The first issue — a handsome thin quarto — contains documents relating to the Monroe Declaration; five letters which passed between Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe in October and November, 1823; the appropriate extracts from the message of December 2; and a letter of Richard Rush to Monroe, of January 28, 1824. Part II. will contain several famous letters of the Revolutionary period, and documents of the boyhood of Washington. The papers in the third part will relate to the treason of Benedict Arnold.

Miss Elizabeth H. Avery's *The Influence of French Immigration on the Political History of the United States*, a thesis for the doctor's degree at the University of Minnesota, deals with the influence of the Huguenots in the period before 1790, and with the history of the French Catholics in the Northwest and in the Louisiana Purchase, since their acquisition. Plainly no effort is made to take account of the French immigrants who flocked into the country at the time of the French Revolution, in consequence of the revolt in Santo Domingo, or in consequence of the fall of Napoleon. Within the limits of the subject as it is understood by the writer, she does her work carefully, modestly, and with good judgment as to the conclusions reached. It is not so clear that the necessity of working from the sources alone rather than from secondary authorities, as an essential characteristic of work for the doctor's degree, has been kept before the mind of the writer.

Citizenship and Suffrage in Maryland, by Bernard C. Steiner (Baltimore, Cushing and Co., 1895, pp. 95), is both historical and descriptive. Mr. Steiner discusses the methods by which citizenship has been attained in Maryland since the foundation of the colony, and the privileges granted to aliens, gives a history of the suffrage

laws, and then an analysis of the present election laws of the state. The study is a careful piece of work, and is a contribution both to local history and to an important branch of political science in the United States. The general awakening to an interest in good government, state and municipal, it is to be hoped will yield still further fruit in the scholarly study of the evolution of existing state institutions.

Stimmrecht und Einzelstaat in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerica, von Dr. Otis Harrison Fisk (Leipzig, Duncker and Humblot, 1896). This discussion of essential points in the political system of the United States is addressed to a German audience. Its aim is to elucidate the legal status of the states as related to the Union and to explain the basis of suffrage in the several states. The author takes the ground that there was no legal government common to the Union until the adoption of the Constitution ; that during the Revolution the states were sovereign ; that the Confederation was a league of sovereign states ; and that state sovereignty was surrendered only under the Constitution. He explains clearly the dual system of our government and shows how the sovereign people have distributed governmental powers between the two agencies, federal and state. Dr. Fisk has done his work with commendable thoroughness, and the minuteness with which he has cited his authorities point by point is especially Germanesque.

A handsome and interesting volume, commemorative of Thomas Corwin, has been prepared at the instance of various friends and neighbors in Lebanon, Ohio, where he lived (*Life and Speeches of Thomas Corwin, Orator, Lawyer, and Statesman*, edited by Josiah Morrow, Cincinnati, W. H. Anderson & Co., 1896, pp. 477). They spent some years in gathering and preparing materials, and confided to Mr. Morrow, Corwin's last law-student, the work of editing them. He has prepared a brief biography, of less than a hundred pages, in which the greatest amount of new matter is that relating to Corwin's first entrance into political life and his first election to Congress. The remainder of the volume is taken up with Corwin's speeches, delivered in Ohio and in the federal Senate and House of Representatives. The volume is supposed to contain all his speeches that were reported and revised for publication in his lifetime. They are not arranged in a chronological order.